(c) and (f) IDR Act does not override SICA 1985. As reported to Parliament in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Industry for the year 1996-97, the policy of the Govt. of India is not to take over any sick units under the provisions of IDR Act.

Indo-Myanmar Trade treaty

*400. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have monitored the Indo-Myanmar Trade treaty at Moreh, the border town of Manipur;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for improving the present problems now in the area on Indian side; and

(c) whether Government have any proposals to make trade treaty in the border area with Myanmar and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have taken several steps for improving the Indo-Myanmar trade which include;

(i) Periodical review of Indo-Myanmar trade is being held at Government level talks. The last such review was done in October, 1998 at Yangon in Myanmar.

(ii) Myanmar Government have been requested to approve the draft of a Memorandum of Understanding proposed by India on inter-banking arrangements at Moreh-Tamu border point. It was also suggested by India during the Government level meeting in October, 1998, that pending inter-banking arrangements at Moreh-Tamu border point, demand drafts could be accepted for transactions upto US$ 10,000 and Myanmar side had noted it for consideration. It was agreed that for transactions above this amount, Letter of Credit would have to be opened.

(iii) The Exim Policy has exempted persons importing and exporting goods from/to Myanmar through the border from the requirement of having Importer-Exporter Code number provided the CIF value of single consignment does not exceed Rs. 25,000/-No. GR (Guaranteed Remittance) formalities are required to be completed for border trade transactions upto US$ 1000.

(iv) The Tamu-Kalemyo road in Myanmar is being upgraded by Government of India to facilitate the promotion of border trade between the two countries.

(v) Myanmar Government have been requested to expedite the operationalisation of the second border point at Champai in India and Rhi in Myanmar. On the Indian side, a township is being developed at Zokhawthar near Champai in Mizoram.

(c) Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement has already been signed on 21.1.1994.

Government of India and Government of Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Group of Experts of examine and make recommendations on all relevant aspects of opening of border trade between the two countries.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

फर्जी निर्यातकों को दंड दिया जाना

2946. प्रो॰ राम गोपाल यादवः
श्री ईश दत्त यादवः

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार द्वारा 31 मार्च को घोषित की गई आयात निर्यात नीति में, फर्जी निर्यातकों को दंडित करने और सिर्फ कागजों में हो रहे निर्यात पर अंकुश लगाने के संदर्भ में दिए गए सुझावों को समाहित किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या प्रावधान किए गए हैं; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त सुझावों को शामिल न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री राम कृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) से (ग) जी, हां। 31 मार्च, 99 को घोषित एग्जिम नीति में नए आने वालों को अग्रिम लाइसेंस केवल सीमा शुल्क प्राधिकारियों को सत प्रतिशत बैंक गारंटी दिए जाने पर तथा असंशोध्य पुष्ट साख-पत्र प्रस्तुत करने पर ही जारी किए जाने की अनुमति है। दूसरी बार या उसके बाद लाइसेंस केवल तभी जारी किए जाएंगे जबकि पूर्ववर्ती लाइसेंसों पर 50% निर्यात दायित्व पूरा कर दिया जाएगा।

Boosting of exports

2947. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to adopt three pronged strategy to remove procedural hurdles and reversing the export slide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in order to boost exports, Governments propose to take any more concrete steps on the basis of various representations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A memorandum was received by the Government on 12th August, 1998 from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry containing various suggestions for reversing export slide. Some of the steps suggested in the memorandum were reduction in transaction cost, revamping of export credit scheme, extension of DEPB scheme to deemed exports, lowering of threshold limit of EPCG Scheme, ensuring power supply at competitive rates of manufacturing enterprises, overcoming Customs related complexities and optimum utilisation of port facilities.

(c) and (d) Government has taken various steps on the basis of representations received which were incorporated in the Exim Policy announced on 31st March, 1999. These steps include extension of zero duty EPCG scheme to plastic sector, textile sector and certain sub sectors of chemicals, exemption from additional customs duty under zero duty EPCG scheme for marine and software sector, rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme, conversion of export processing zones into free trade zones from 1st July, 99, recognition for export of services, electronic filing of advance Licensing application, introduction of Annual Advance Licensing Scheme, removal of restriction of units working in Export Processing Zones etc.

Export of Services

2948. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a great demand by Corporates in the developed world of services such as printing, updating health profiles and hospital records, maintaining of data banks of airlines and sending responses to clients;

(b) whether there is no dearth of such trained manpower in the country;

(c) whether in view of tall in merchandise export, Government propose to explore the possibility of service export; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The Government acknowledges the potential of export of services and has recognised all the services covered under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. A separate chapter has been incorporated in the Exim Policy on the